November, 1995 considering the shorter gestation period of liquid fuel based power projects as compared to thermal power projects and the need to have a quick capacity addition to avert a severe power crisis. Due to the spurt in international prices, naphtha is no longer considered a viable fuel for generation of electricity, also considering the difficulty in its handling. The State Governments are also now reluctant to encourage naphtha based power generation.

In order to accelerate the pace of hydro power development in the country, a Policy of Hydro Power Development was announced in August 1998. A favourable environment has been created to promote private sector investment in the field of hydro electric projects. The procedure for transfer of clearances have been streamlined and tariff rationalization have made such projects attractive. The Ranking Study recently carried out by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) to create a shelf of feasible projects would facilitate the hydro developers to take up the implementation of potential sites in a phased manner in order of their ranking. CEA is also in the process of formulating a National Action Plan in consultation with the State Governments to harness the entire balance potential in the country.

Taking over of DPP

3291. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Government of Maharashtra has requested the Union Government for taking over the entire Dabhol Power Project directly or through its PSUs so that the power generated by DPP is distributed to different States in the country including Maharashtra; and

(b) if so, Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The request has not been agreed to.

Boost to hydro-power generation

3292. DR. KARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a recent study of the Asian Regional Research Programme in Energy, Environment and Climate (ARRPEEC) has stressed the need for a major boost to the hydro power generation in the country;

(b) if so, whether any action plan has been drawn to adopt and promote

this strategy for conservation of hydro-carbons and fossil fuels and controlling Green House Gases (GHGs) for implementation over the Tenth Plan and thereafter; and

(c) the details of such a plan of action?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Asian Regional Research Programme in Energy, Environment and Climate (ARRPEEC) have suggested that hydro power generation is an attractive option to mitigate Green House Gases emission from the power sector.

(c) The Government of India is already giving boost to non-fossil fuel generation. The likely capacity addition through Hydro Power generation in the 10th and 11th Plan is 17,311 MW and 19,262 MW respectively. In order to control green house gases emission in the Power Sector, the Government is promoting renewable energy sources, encouraging adoption of clean coal technologies like super critical boilers and IGCC. Promoting efficient use of energy in various sectors of economy, promoting efficiency improvement in the thermal power plants and reduction of transmission and distribution losses through renovation and modernisation and distribution reforms will also eventually reduce green house gases emission.

Provision of power to power and coal related PSUs

†3293. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Standing Conference of Public Enterprises (SCOPE), the highest institution of PSUs have urged to provide sufficient power to power and coal related undertakings to recover the outstanding amount;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the total amount outstanding of power and coal related PSUs of the States and other institutions at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) The Standing Conference of Public Enterprises (SCOPE) had submitted a Memorandum on Economic Policy issues for Union Budget 2002 to the Finance Minister wherein it was, *inter-alia*, emphasized that the hands of the PSUs should be strengthened to augment

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.